

REMARKS

Interview Summary

We thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephonic interview held on April 25, 2005. In the interview, the outstanding rejections for clarity and definiteness were discussed, as well as the prior art cited against the currently pending claims.

As set forth in greater detail in the response filed on April 1, 2005, we discussed how the pending independent claims both recite, in part, “utilizing, by a programmed computer, the objective function to select a subset of suppliers and determine an optimal award schedule for at least partial satisfaction of said requisition utilizing the selected suppliers,” where the objective function includes “non-price criteria.” We also discussed how neither *Carlton-Foss* nor *Barzilai*, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests at least these claim limitations because neither of these references teaches the use of non-price criteria in bids that are used to determine an optimal award schedule; certainly neither reference teaches explicit use of non-price criteria in an objective function capable of optimization or the determination of an optimal award schedule consisting of an optimal combination of suppliers, together with the list of items to be ordered from each supplier.

CONCLUSION

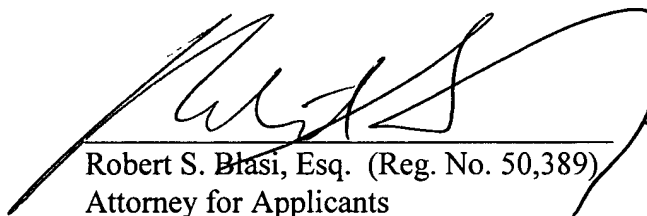
In light of the aforementioned interview and the response on file with the Office, we respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, we respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and objections, and allowance of all of the pending claims in due course.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting the allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 7, 2005

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert S. Blasi', is written over a horizontal line.

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